

Application No. 10/642,614
Attorney Docket: P15467-A (YAM.055)

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116, since no new claims or issues are presented and the only claim amendment incorporates subject matter of claim 9, indicated as allowable, into rejected claim 1, and cancellation of that dependent claim.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 11 are all the claims presently pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 9 is canceled by its incorporation into independent claim 1. No new matter has been introduced.

It is noted that Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and has rewritten claim 9 in independent format by adding this matter into claim 1, thereby rendering all claims allowable.

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Long, et al. (US 5,710,990) in view of Birchler, et al. (US 5,638,403).

Applicant respectfully maintains that the rejection currently of record fails to demonstrate the elements of independent claim 1, as described in the previous Amendment. However, to expedite prosecution of allowable subject matter, Applicant has incorporated the contents of allowable claim 9 into independent claim 1, thereby rendering moot for at least the time being the rejection based on Long.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-6, 8, 10, 11, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

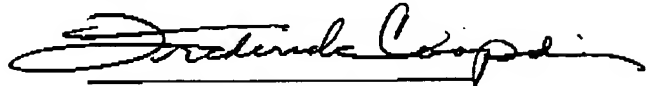
To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR

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§1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 12/11/07



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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 this Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 to Examiner G. Mui on December 11, 2007.



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